reference not to their intrinsic nature, but to the use to be made of them: goose-quills and steel pens lie together; not so a man's poker, his razor, and his carving-knife, although all three consist of carburetted iron. Just so, museums exist for various classes of persons—the natural philosopher, the practician, and the general public: the first desires the widest possible range of objects—*omnibus et quibusdam aliis*; the second, a particular set of things; the third, anything of any kind that is popularly interesting. For the first even the present collection is not heterogeneous enough: the natural minerals, for instance, would be well illustrated by a parallel suite of artificial crystals, and the zoology ought to commence with the two-banded order of Cuvier—the species *homo*. On the other hand a miner or an engineer cares only for certain kinds of stones, and these often such as least interest the mineralogist: a mason might seek in vain in the latter's cases for a bit of granite or sandstone, and look for some time ere he met with Bath or Portland-stone. Glauber's rule was to examine what other people threw away; and Colton, when he sneers at the antiquary for remembering just what others are content to forget, exactly indicates his proper function; but if you pour all your oddities and rarities into the practical artist's collection, you overwhelm their legitimate contents—like a cuckoo in a sparrow's nest.

So as to popular, distinguished from scientific utility, the marshalled hosts of curiosities only excite an admiring commendation of the patience that could catch, preserve, and label so very many periwinkles and black beetles, &c.; while a more intelligent visitor can only feel that there is a vast deal that does not concern *him*; and as to sculpture, it is submitted that originals, untampered with in their mutilations, are for the artist; restored copies for the laity. The anatomist ought to find many things on his shelves unsuited and even offensive to the public eye, which delights in matters nowise scientifically pre-eminent; as, among shells, those that are elegantly dappled or zigzagged, or which figure like the Argonaut in poetry, or in commerce like the pearl. These they now have to hunt out from their uninteresting associates, ranged on a republican level, instead of being set forth in state, like the humming birds at the Regent's Park. As in collection, so in disposing the objects, science puts together similar things in order to define their relationship: for the public a geographic grouping would be more agreeable: the most obvious character of a coral and an oyster, a crab and a shark, is, that they all come out of the sea; and every one abuses the zoologist for putting the porpoise among the beasts when there is a room on purpose to keep the fish in. As to special pursuits, an architect would probably arrange the *echinus* along with the horse chesnut: both have something to do with the origin of the Doric capital. The public are now excluded from the King's Library on the reasonable ground that they would not get much useful knowledge out of the covers of the books: these, however, were not the attraction, but the stately room that contained them. If a place is meant merely for a magazine it is folly to line it with scagliola. Again, matters which all are to see must be fenced in from touching or handling, in respect of which, nevertheless, facilities should be afforded in proportion as the access is restricted to real students.

The insects and minerals were at one time kept in receptacles glazed above for general inspection, and with drawers below for details; but it is obvious that the F. R. S. cannot get at the lower strata while the charity boy is surveying the surface. If one *room* held the main body, another would allow of exhibiting a popular selection which might be changed occasionally; and this is, I think, done now with the MSS. department. As to giving alternate days to the two classes of visitors, whatever is given thus to one must be taken from the other.

But, unlike the scientific treasures, those for popular use would even gain by dispersion: a trip to Kew gives an appetite for botany, and portraits are looked at in Hampton Court which can hardly be said of their brethren in Bloomsbury, where the infinite variety only wearies or creates vacant wonder. Indeed, for education and amusement purely local, museums are efficient, and might be multiplied by the circulation, in some cases, of duplicates; in others (as fossils and antiquities), of casts and models. This would be fair towards the provincials, who not only contribute to the pecuniary support of the metropolitan collection, but are expected to send up to it any Roman relic or *rara avis* that may be turned up or brought down in the neighbourhood. Looking to the Zoological Gardens and the Crystal Palace, it seems a question whether matters of amusement need to be subsidised or do not thrive better without it; but abstract science clearly should have patronage, and that without having to make itself *entertaining* to holiday folk. Relieved from all effort at display, the collection, books and all, for some years to come, would "go into" the existing structure, or what might be tacked on to it. Those specimens that were put in the dark would be the more permanent thereby, and all by being compactly stowed would be more available, for tools are of use to a workman when he has them close at hand.

T. Turner.

DOORWAY IN TURIN.

Anthracite in Glass Manufacture.

Mr. Chance of Handsworth, has patented the application of anthracite or stone-coal in the manufacture of glass. The coal is assisted in its combustion by air-blast, but the furnaces require little other alteration. The riddance of smoke, which injures the glass, is the actuating motive to this improvement.

Doorway at Turin.

We add to our recent illustrations of Italian details, an engraving from a sketch by Mr. Robinson of a doorway in Turin.

Notes in the Provinces.

Preston.—The Independent chapel in Cannon-street has been enlarged and reopened. The former building was about 60 feet square, and has been lengthened by the addition of 30 feet. It will now contain about 1,100 adults and 250 children, at an extra cost of about 1,600*l*. "A mode of lighting, novel in Preston," says the local *Guardian*, "is introduced with advantage into the ceiling. Two large, handsome centre-pieces contain each a 'sunlight,' consisting of seven stars each, with nine radiating bat-wing burners, that diffuse an agreeable, subdued light over the whole of the galleries and nave of the chapel. The 'sunlight' affords one of the best devised means of ventilation whilst the chapel is lighted. The exhausted air of the room is made to stream upon the tubes which convey the smoke from the gas, at the same time keeping the tubes cool." This new mode of lighting, first suggested in our columns, thus appears to be extending. The contractor for the works is Mr. Richard Aughton, jun.; the painting and decoration of the chapel by Mr. James Walmsley; and the plaster work by Mr. George Swarbrick; the gas fittings by Mr. Chatham. The committee entrusted the carrying out of their plans to Mr. Veevers, of the firm of Messrs. Myres and Veevers.——Great additional accommodation has recently been added to two of the principal churches in this

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